

cost to the State at this Called Session of the Legislature. When in truth and fact, he stated while he had not signed an agreement to serve for nothing, but stated yesterday in his remarks in support of said amendment to the election bill, that he would serve the State free of costs on amending the election law; that while he was quoted as Senator Faubion, whom he had known nearly a life time, yet he thought that the leading daily newspaper in his senatorial district ought to know by this time that he was the present senator in the twentieth senatorial district.

THIRD DAY.

Senate Chamber,
Austin, Texas, Wednesday,
March 28, 1906.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment, Lieutenant Governor Neal presiding.

Roll call quorum present, the following Senators answering to their names:

Present.

Barrett.	Hill.
Beaty.	Holland.
Brachfield.	Looney.
Chambers.	Martin.
Davidson.	McKamy.
Decker.	Meachum.
Faulk.	Paulus.
Faust.	Skinner.
Glasscock.	Smith.
Griggs.	Stafford.
Grinnan.	Stokes.
Hanger.	Stone.
Harbison.	Storm.
Harper.	Terrell.
Hawkins.	Willacy.

Absent.

Hicks.

Prayer by the Chaplain, as follows:

O, eternal God, unto whom all hearts are open, and to whom all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit. Give us grace and fortitude sufficient for all the labors and duties of this day. Pour upon us abundantly of Thy spirit that we may love Thee more and worthily magnify Thy Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pending the reading of the Journal of yesterday, on motion of Senator Stone the same was dispensed with.

Morning call concluded.

RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT DOOR-KEEPER.

The Chair here laid before the Senate the following resignation:

Austin, Texas

Hon. George D. Neal.

Owing to other business engagements it will be impossible for me to remain in Austin and I therefore tender my resignation as assistant door-keeper.

Thanking you and others for your many courtesies, I am,

Yours respectfully,

C. J. KIRK

COMMITTEE REPORT.

Here Senator Paulus offered the following committee report:

Senate Chamber,
Committee Room.

To the Hon. George D. Neal, President of the Senate.

Dear Sir—We, your committee on contingent expenses, have had under consideration the resolution of the Senate instructing this committee to determine what action should be taken with reference to employees and officers of the Senate, beg to report as follows:

We commend the tender of service on the part of the employees for the purpose of correcting Section 120 of the Election Bill as an example of patriotic sacrifice for the public good, but do not believe that the expenditure of the money of the State deficient as it is, would or could be justified in the payment for the services of officers and employees except the following who are, in our judgment, indispensable:

C. H. Allen, Sergeant at Arms.

D. F. Hughes, Assistant Sergeant at Arms.

Clyde Smith, Secretary.

R. M. Gilmore, Journal Clerk.

W. Z. Hayes, Calendar Clerk.

Frank Mullins, Doorkeeper.

Frank Smith, Engrossing Clerk, and who shall also perform the duties of Enrolling Clerk.

T. F. McClure, Assistant Postmaster who shall also perform the duties of Postmaster.

Three Porters, who shall be selected by the Sergeant at Arms from those employed during the Regular Session of the Twenty-ninth Legislature.

We recommend that the above named employees and officers receive the same compensation provided for them during the last Regular Session.

We shall gratefully appreciate the service of all employees and officers

in the same positions so acceptably filled by them during the Regular Session of the Twenty-ninth Legislature, during this Special Session, but think it fair to them that they know in advance who is to receive compensation for the service.

We also recommend that all others who were in the employ of the Senate at the First Called Session, and who have returned and are now present be allowed their regular pay for the two days they have been here waiting the action of the Senate.

PAULUS, Chairman.

SENATE BILL NO. 3.

The Chair here laid before the Senate, on second reading,

Senate bill No. 3, a bill to be entitled "An Act appropriating twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars to pay mileage and per diem of members and per diem of officers and employees of the Second Called Session of the Twenty-ninth Legislature, convened on 26th of March, 1906, by proclamation of the Governor.

On motion of Senator McKamy further consideration of the bill was postponed till tomorrow morning.

SENATE BILL NO. 4.

The Chair laid before the Senate, on second reading,

Senate bill No. 4, a bill to be entitled "An Act appropriating five hundred (\$500) dollars to pay the contingent expenses of the Second Called Session of the Twenty-ninth Legislature."

The committee report was adopted.

Bill read second time and ordered engrossed.

On motion of Senator Faulk, the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days was suspended and the bill put on its third reading and final passage by the following vote:

Yeas—27.

Barrett.	Hill.
Beaty.	Martin.
Brachfield.	McKamy.
Chambers.	Meachum.
Davidson.	Paulus.
Decker.	Skinner.
Faulk.	Smith.
Faust.	Stafford.
Glasscock.	Stokes.
Griggs.	Stone.
Grinnan.	Storm.
Hanger.	Terrell.
Harper.	Willacy.
Hawkins.	

Nays—1.

Harbison.

Absent.

Hicks.
Holland.

Looney.

The bill was read third time and passed by the following vote:

Yeas—27.

Barrett.	Hill.
Beaty.	Holland.
Brachfield.	Martin.
Chambers.	McKamy.
Davidson.	Meachum.
Decker.	Paulus.
Faulk.	Skinner.
Faust.	Smith.
Glasscock.	Stafford.
Griggs.	Stokes.
Grinnan.	Stone.
Hanger.	Storm.
Harper.	Terrell.
Hawkins.	Willacy.

Nays—1.

Harbison.

Absent.

Hicks.
Holland.

Looney.

HOUSE MESSAGE.

Hall of the House of Representatives,
Second Called Session, Twenty-ninth Legislature.

Austin, Texas, March 28, 1906.

Hon. George D. Neal, President of the Senate:

Sir—I am directed by the house to inform the Senate that the House has passed the following:

House concurrent resolution No. 3, requesting the appointment of Captain W. P. Zuber by the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds.

Respectfully,

BOB BARKER.

Chief Clerk, House of Representatives.

COMMUNICATION.

Here Senator Davidson offered the following communication and requested it printed in the Journal:

Houston, Texas, March 27, 1906.

Senator A. B. Davidson, Austin, Texas:

Dear Sir—I enclose herewith a copy of my annual report to the commissioners court of Harris county showing what has been done in the matter

of collecting delinquent taxes for the past two years under the contract system which was made an act of the Twenty-ninth Legislature, the passage of which was so kindly and earnestly supported by you. I want you to know of the successful results in this county and the great appreciation I feel for the help given to this act.

The State tax collections in Harris county since May 1, 1905, the first month after the act went into effect, down to March 1, 1906 (ten months), have been about \$25,000, and have cost the State, including attorneys' fees and abstract work and all other expenses, in 435 tax suits filed and collected, a fraction over 15 per cent of the total collections with over 1000 suits pending.

Two clauses in this act have helped to make collections much beyond my expectations. The one which provides for reduction of values in case of excessive valuations of unrendered properties has been of the greatest help. No one not familiar with tax assessments of such properties can imagine to what extreme this abuse has been carried by tax assessors anxious to make a big showing as to the increase of taxable values of their respective counties.

The taxes, penalties and interest and costs on a great deal of this property had accumulated to such an extent that the total amount to be paid was more than the cash value of such properties, and there was no way provided by law after tax rolls were approved to reduce these excessive valuations until provided by this act.

My records show that ninety-eight reduction orders have been made by the commissioners court of this county since this act was passed, which resulted in the collection of \$15,000 to \$20,000 dollars State and county taxes. I am quite sure it will bring in several hundred thousand dollars of State taxes when the importance of this clause becomes well known.

Another feature of the act referred to which provides for reassessment of property where the former assessments are found to be invalid, has proven to be of great value in making collections. Many persons who formerly were disposed to contest the payment of tax in every assessment where there was a chance to show it to be invalid (the only defense that can be offered to defeat the collection of tax) now prefer to pay the tax if the valuations assessed are reduced to a just and fair basis rather than take the chances of a contest over this clause.

I find from information received from other counties that no other county has done near so well as this

in the matter of delinquent tax collections. Possibly they may later. If they do not I will have a suggestion or bill to offer the next Legislature that I believe will stir up these collections all over the State as it is shown can be done by the results in Harris county.

Respectfully,

C. W. BOOTH

Houston, Texas, March 26, 1906.

To the Honorable Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas.

Gentlemen: The following comparative report shows the collections of delinquent state and county taxes prior to and by the contract method for the years as follows:

Prior to contract years 1903-4.

March	\$ 1,565.05
April	3,331.34
May	5,072.80
June	2,358.80
July	2,293.24
August	1,190.23
September	1,652.54
October	2,109.26
November	3,045.33
December	2,254.84
January	1,853.05
February	2,516.13

Total\$29,242.66

By contract method, years 1904-5.

March	\$ 4,291.21
April	5,432.19
May	7,459.73
June	7,218.08
July	4,826.09
August	8,596.20
September	4,744.75
October	6,547.53
November	3,582.19
December	6,542.94
January	6,575.88
February	3,068.01

Total\$68,884.85

Increase over 1903, 137 per cent, \$39,642.19.

By contract method, years 1905-6.

March	\$ 3,718.15
April	3,337.91
May	8,095.69
June	5,813.32
July	6,529.97
August	8,204.45
September	4,495.69
October	9,061.06
November	6,443.07
December	7,711.77
January	7,156.32
February	7,218.36

Total\$77,786.36

Increase over 1903, 170 per cent \$48,543.70.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1.

The chair laid before the Senate, S. C. R. No. 1, relating to the enactment of a national quarantine law by the National Congress. (See resolution in full in yesterday's Journal.)

Senator Davidson offered the following amendment:

Amend by striking out the word "unanimous" wherever the word is found in the resolution.

Pending.

Senator Terrell offered the following amendment:

Amend the resolution by striking out all between the words "ports" and "in." Strike out the following which means "to against the influence of a national quarantine law and."

Pending.

Senator Smith moved that the resolution, together with the pending amendments be postponed till tomorrow.

The motion was adopted.

Senator Griggs moved that the Journal should be corrected so as to show who offered the resolution, which motion was adopted.

The resolution was offered by Senators Griggs, Beaty and McKamy, and will show same in final Journal.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3.

The Chair laid before the Senate House Concurrent Resolution No. 3. Requesting the appointment of Captain W. P. Zuber by the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds.

(Mr. Zuber is one of four of the survivors of the Battle of San Jacinto.)

Senator Davidson moved that the resolution be adopted by a rising vote. The motion was adopted.

President Pro Tem Faulk in the chair.

SIMPLE RESOLUTION.

Senator Hawkins offered the following resolution:

Whereas, the records of the Secretary of State show that certain State officers and employes of the State of Texas are among the incorporators, directors and stockholders of The Capital Bank and Trust Company, a corporation chartered by the State of Texas, doing business in the City of Austin; and,

Whereas, in certain contingencies said relations so existing might become detrimental to the public service; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a committee of three members of this body be appointed to

investigate and report to this body as soon as possible whether or not the relation of said officers and employes to said banking institution, or whether or not the relation of any officers and employes of the State of Texas to any banking institution has been or may likely become detrimental to the public service, and particularly to report to this body to what extent the officers and employes of this State are interested in the banking institution before named or any other banking institution and to inquire to what extent, if any, State funds are used by said institutions.

Be it further resolved, That said committee, to the end of making this investigation and for purposes incident thereto, shall have full power to summon witnesses and administer oaths.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion of Senator Meachum, the Senate, at 12:45 adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

APPENDIX.

ENGROSSING DEPARTMENT.

Committee Room,

Austin, Texas, March 28, 1906.

Hon. Geo. D. Neal, President of the Senate.

Sir:—Your Committee on Engrossed Bills have carefully examined and compared Senate Bill No. 4 being "An Act appropriating five hundred (\$500.00) dollars to pay the contingent expenses of the Second Called Session of the Twenty-ninth Legislature," and find the same correctly engrossed.

BARRETT,
Chairman.

FOURTH DAY.

Senate Chamber, Austin, Texas,
Thursday, March 29, 1906.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment, Lieutenant Governor George D. Neal presiding.

Roll call, quorum present, the following Senators answering to their names:

Barrett.	Harbison.
Beaty.	Harper.
Brachfield.	Hawkins.
Chambers.	Hill.
Davidson.	Holland.
Decker.	Looney.
Faulk.	Martin.
Faust.	McKamy.
Glasscock.	Meachum.
Griggs.	Paulus.
Grinnan.	Skinner.
Hanger.	Smith.